TOPIC: Othello by William Shakespeare

Aim #10:
How can we effectively utilize close reading skills to improve our comprehension of Othello?

Do Now: Complete Othello vocabulary words 26-30

Homework
Vocabulary Test - TODAY 9/23
Read Act 2 scenes 1 & 2 and complete study guide questions - Due Tuesday 9/24
Complete Othello sentences for words #36 - 51 - Due Wednesday 9/25
Read Act 2 scene 3 and complete study guide questions - Due Thursday 9/26
***You must submit these assignments into TIN by 8:08am***
21) discern - People had a difficult time discern the identical twins apart.

22) discord - The discord between the two opposing views was extreme.

23) discretion - I had the discretion to choose which race I was going to part in because my coach trusted my judgment.

24) edifying - After the woman attended yoga class, she found it to be an edifying experience and she felt better about herself.

25) enmesh - The fly became enmeshed in the spiders web and could not escape.

The man became enmeshed in the hammock and suffocated.

26) entreaty - The woman made an entreaty of grace to be her lawyer because was experienced and won every case.

27) epithet - In court, the lawyer was very offended by the judges use of radical epithets.

28) facile - As long as you are prepared with a change of clothes, obtaining an "A" in physical education class is facile.

29) forbearance - The coach displayed great forbearance by allowing the bad player to remain on his team; He wanted everyone to have the same opportunity.

30) fulsome - The actors house was incredibly fulsome and had a solid gold toilet.
Othello Vocabulary Words 1-5

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues in each sentence.

- **advocacy** - support of an idea or cause
- **affinity** - a likeness, a natural relationship, a kinship.
- **agile** - the ability to move quickly with suppleness and grace.
- **alacrity** - prompt or cheerful response
- **amiable** - friendly, sociable and congenial

1) Known as one of the fastest sprinters in the world, Usain Bolt is extremely __agile__ and has set several track and field records.

2) The children's __advocacy__ agency helps fight for children's rights.

3) The boy responded with __alacrity__ when he father asked him if he wanted to go to the amusement park.

4) Although I enjoy all flavors of ice-cream, I have an __affinity__ to chocolate because it is my favorite.

5) An __amiable__ teacher who stood by the door and said hello to each child.

Construct your own original sentence using one of these words with strong context clues.
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues in each sentence.

baseness – the quality of lacking higher values
beguile – to deceive, to mislead, and to persuade with charm
bestial – brutal without reason, having the attributes of a savage.
bestow – to grant or to give
boisterous – rowdy, rough and stormy

1) The ______________ storm __________ through the town destroying everything in its path.

2) The car salesman tried to ______________ the customer with his ______________ and ____________ sales pitch.

3) The billionaire felt the world was filled with ______________ and moved onto a private island to ____________.

4) During times of war ______________ acts like murder are common.

5) The king will ______________ a title and land to the man who saved the princess from the dragon.

Construct your own original sentence using one of these words with strong context clues.
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues in each sentence.

**bombastic** – using inflated language; pompous

**candid** – blunt, sincere, honest

**carnal** – marked by sexuality that is often frank

**castigate** – to punish; to criticize with severity

**circumspect** – careful to consider consequences; cautious; prudent

1) The criminal was ___________________ (d) for three years in federal prison for grand theft auto.

2) The woman was thought to be an exotic dancer because of her __________________ appearance.

3) Donald Trump was known for his __________________ and inflated language at political rallies.

4) The book reviewer had no problem giving his __________________ review of the awful novel.

5) The boy was very __________________ and considered all of the consequences before purchasing a fake id.

Using one of the vocabulary words from above, construct your own original sentence. Remember to use context clues.

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Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues in each sentence.

consecrate – to dedicate or declare sacred

cynical – given to sneering or sarcasm; exhibiting mockng disbelief

defunct – no longer existing, dead

desolate – deserted, without inhabitants, barren

dilatory – delaying, slow to act

1) At noon tomorrow, my sister and her fiancé will _______________ their love by getting married in a church by a priest.

2) Beepers and pages are a _______________ type of technology that have been replaced by cellphones.

3) The young girl walked in a _______________ manner towards the doctor’s office in an attempt to delay the shot from the physician.

4) The desert is a _______________ place where not many people live due to the extreme heat.

5) After being dumped by his girlfriend, Eli was _______________ about dating other women; he clearly did not trust them.

Using one of the vocabulary words from above, construct your own original sentence. Remember to use context clues.

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Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues in each sentence.

discern – to differentiate between two or more things

discord – lack of agreement, tension, or strife

discretion – ability to act on one’s own power of decision

edifying – instructing and improving spiritually or morally

enmesh – to entangle

1) Chad found the religious service to be an ______________ experience and walked out of the church feeling enlightened.

2) It was difficult to ______________ the identical twins from one another as they look exactly the same.

3) Before watching the rated R movie, a warning appeared on the screen that viewer ______________ is advised.

4) The fly became ______________(ed) in the spiders web and was unable to escape.

5) There was ______________ among the union workers when they could not agree to the terms of their new contract; they threatened to walk off of the job at midnight.

Using one of the vocabulary words from above, construct your own original sentence. Remember to use context clues.
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues in each sentence.

- **entreaty** – a plea; an earnest request
- **epithet** – a term or phrase describing or characterizing
- **facile** – easily achieved with little difficulty
- **forbearance** – patience, lenience
- **fulsome** – excess to the point of disgust, extreme lavishness

1) The teacher showed a great deal of ______________ by not yelling at the rowdy class who did not listen to her directions.

2) In the tragedy Othello, some common ______________ (‘s) used to characterize the protagonist are “thick lips”, “black ram”, and “Barbary horse.”

3) The homeless man made an ______________ to people passing by begging for money.

4) It is extremely ______________ to achieve an “A” in gym class as long as you come to class prepared and participate.

5) I ate a ______________ amount of turkey on Thanksgiving and was forced to loosen my belt so that I could breathe.

Using one of the vocabulary words from above, construct your own original sentence. Remember to use context clues.
Othello Text Dependent Response

ACT I

SCENE I. Venice. A street.

Enter RODERIGO and IAGO

RODERIGO
Tush! never tell me; I take it much unkindly
That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse
As if the strings were thine, shouldst know of this.

IAGO
'Sblood, but you will not hear me:
If ever I did dream of such a matter, Abhor me.

RODERIGO
Thou told'st me thou didst hold him in thy hate.

IAGO
Despise me, if I do not. Three great ones of the city,
In personal suit to make me his lieutenant,
Off-capp'd to him: and, by the faith of man,
I know my price, I am worth no worse a place:
But he; as loving his own pride and purposes,
Evades them, with a bombast circumstance
Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war;
And, in conclusion,
Nonsuits my mediators; for, 'Certes,' says he,
'I have already chose my officer.'
And what was he?
Forsooth, a great arithmetician,
One Michael Cassio, a Florentine,
A fellow almost damn'd in a fair wife;
That never set a squadron in the field,
Nor the division of a battle knows
More than a spinster; unless the bookish theoretic,
Wherein the tog'd consuls can propose
As masterly as he: mere prattle, without practise,
Is all his soldiery. But he, sir, had the election:
And I, of whom his eyes had seen the proof
At Rhodes, at Cyprus and on other grounds
Christian and heathen, must be be-lee'd and calm'd
By debtor and creditor: this counter-caster,
He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,
And I--God bless the mark!--his Moorship's ancient.

RODERIGO
By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman.

IAGO
Why, there's no remedy; 'tis the curse of service,
Preferment goes by letter and affection,
And not by old gradation, where each second
Stood heir to the first. Now, sir, be judge yourself,
Whether I in any just term am affined
To love the Moor.

RODERIGO
I would not follow him then.

IAGO
O, sir, content you;
I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
We cannot all be masters, nor all masters
Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark
Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave,
That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,
Wears out his time, much like his master's ass,
For nought but provender, and when he's old, cashier'd:
Whip me such honest knaves. Others there are
Who, trimm'd in forms and visages of duty,
Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves,
And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,
Do well thrive by them and when they have lined
their coats
Do themselves homage: these fellows have some soul;
And such a one do I profess myself. For, sir,
It is as sure as you are Roderigo,
Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago:
In following him, I follow but myself;
Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty,
But seeming so, for my peculiar end:
For when my outward action doth demonstrate
The native act and figure of my heart
In compliment extern, 'tis not long after
But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve
For daws to peck at: I am not what I am.

RODERIGO
What a full fortune does the thicklips owe
If he can carry't thus!
IAGO
Call up her father,
Rouse him: make after him, poison his delight,
Proclaim him in the streets; incense her kinsmen,
And, though he in a fertile climate dwell,
Plague him with flies: though that his joy be joy,
Yet throw such changes of vexation on't,
As it may lose some colour.
In the play *Othello* by William Shakespeare, the central idea of this passage is that we must be careful who we allow to get close to us as people may not be who they appear.

**One writing strategy that proves the central idea is characterization.** Characterization is how a character is described.

In this scene Iago is explaining to Roderigo why he is upset at Othello for being passed over for the position of lieutenant and wants to get revenge.

Iago states, "O, sir, content you; I follow him to serve my turn upon him; We cannot all be masters, not all masters cannot be truly followed" (I.i. 21-25).

Iago is characterized as a very beguiling character. This connects back to the central idea because Iago is not who he appears to be to Othello. One must be aware of what a person says compared to their motives or actions.

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13

September 27, 2019

TOPIC: Act I scene i Homework Questions

1. Why, according to what he tells Roderigo, does Iago hate Othello (referred to only as "him")? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Iago hates Othello because when choosing a new lieutenant, Othello passed Iago over for a promotion in favor of Michael Cassio. Iago becomes more frustrated because Cassio has no real world experience while Iago has been in several battles. "And, by faith of man, I know my price, I am worth no worse a place. But he, as loving his own pride and purposes, evades them this a bombastick circumstance..." (I.i 11-14).

2. Roderigo tells Iago to stop following Othello as he is so dissatisfied with his actions. Why does Iago claim to want to keep working with him?

Iago wants to keep working with Othello to gain his trust and eventually stab him in the back to get his revenge. When he is not with Othello, he speaks badly of him (as seen with Roderigo and Brabantio). However, when with him, he acts like his friend and even warns him that Barbantio and Roderigo were speaking badly about him. "I follow him to serve my turn upon him." (I.i 45).

3. Who is Brabantio, and why do Iago and Roderigo awaken him in the middle of the night? Why does Iago slip off so quickly once Brabantio comes down?

Brabantio is Desdemona’s father and a Venetian senator. Iago and Roderigo awaken Brabantio to inform him that his daughter Desdemona has eloped with Othello. This upsets Brabantio. Even though he respects Othello, he is upset that his daughter married a moor and did so without his permission. Iago slips off before Brabantio comes down so noone knows (except Roderigo) that Iago was speaking against Othello.

4. What is Roderigo’s relationship to Brabantio and his daughter, Desdemona (I.i 94-100)?

Roderigo is in love with Desdemona and tried to court her several times but was unsuccessful. Brabantio does not approve of him for some reason and is frustrated and upset when he identifies himself outside of his window.

5. What is Brabantio’s reaction to Othello’s marriage to Desdemona (I.i 167 - 172)?

When Brabantio discovers that Othello and Desdemona have eloped, he becomes angry and upset. Not only did Othello not ask for permission to marry Desdemona, but he is a moor, and interracial relationships were looked down upon at that time.

6. Why does Roderigo hate Othello?

Roderigo hates Othello because he is in love with Desdemona. Unfortunately, Desdemona married Othello which means he cannot be with her.

7. Why should Roderigo pay particular attention to Iago’s ideas and motives?

Roderigo should pay particular attention to Iago’s ideas and motives because he is giving him money. Also, Iago clearly cannot be trusted and Roderigo should be wary of working with him. He is following him blindly because he is in love with Desdemona.

8. There are several negative words/phrases and racial slurs aimed at Othello. Find 3 examples and explain why they are offensive.

Othello is referred to as an old black ram, a Barbary horse, and refers to him as having "thick lips." These are all negative because they are demeaning/stereotypical to Othello and shows that several characters in the play think "less" of him.

"Because we come to do you service and you think we are ruffians, you'll have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse" (I.i 123-125).

"Even now, now, very now, an old black ram is tupping your white ewe" (I.i 124-127).

"What full fortune does the thick lips owe if he can carry it thus" (I.i 72-73).
TOPIC: Act I scene ii Homework Questions

9. How does Iago lie to Othello at the beginning of the scene?

He warns Othello that Brabantio will be angry with him, even though Iago was the one who informed Brabantio about Othello’s marriage to Desdemona. “Nay, but he prated and spoke such scurvy and provoking terms against your honor, that with the little godliness I have I did full hard forbear him” (I.ii 8-12).

10. What do you learn about Othello’s background in this scene? Why is this important concerning his marriage to Desdemona?

We learn that Othello comes from a royal family. He is very modest about this and does not like to brag. This is important concerning his marriage to Desdemona because her father assumes that he is not good enough for her as he is simply a Moor. However, since he comes from royalty Brabantio is more likely to accept him. “’Tis yet to know I fetch my life and being from men from royal siege, and my demerits may speak unbonneted to as proud a fortune as this that I have reached” (I.ii 22-27).

11. Why does the Duke send for Othello? What danger is Cyprus facing?

The Duke sends for Othello because he needs to speak to him immediately regarding Cyprus. Cyprus may be attacked by the Turks. To prevent this from happening, the Duke sends Othello to Cyprus to defend it. “The Duke does greet you, general, and he requires your haste-post-haste appearance, even on this instant” (I.ii 42-44).

12. How does Othello respond to the irritation of Brabantio’s attacks? Why is he not arrested as Brabantio has ordered?

When Othello is confronted by Brabantio he tells him that he does not want to fight because he respects him as a man and his position as a senator. Othello is not arrested because he summoned by the Duke to travel to Cyprus to defend it against the Turks.
TOPIC: Act I scene iii Homework Questions

13. Describe the relationship between Desdemona and Othello? Who first initiated the idea of love?

The relationship between Desdemona and Othello started when Othello told his stories of war to Brabantio. Desdemona was present during these stories and became interested in him. As time went on, the two became closer and Desdemona asked Othello if he has a friend who is exactly like him. This let Othello know that she was interested in him. Desdemona initiated the idea of love. "She loved me for the dangers I have passed. And I loved her that she did pity them" (I.iii. 193-194).

14. How does Desdemona respond when Brabantio confronts her? Do you think she should have taken a different approach to the problem?

Desdemona responds by telling her father Brabantio that she respects him and is grateful for the life he has provided for her. However, she chooses Othello claiming that her own mother was in a similar situation having to choose between her father and Brabantio and chose her husband. "And so much duty as my mother showed to you, preferring you before her father, so much I challenge that I may profess due to the Moor my lord" (I.iii. 214-218).

15. How does Desdemona argue that she should be allowed to accompany her husband to Cyprus? What assurance does Othello offer the Council that he will take care of his business, even if his wife is with him?

Desdemona argues that she should be allowed to accompany her husband because when they were married, his life became a part of hers (and vice versa). As a general Othello has certain responsibilities and Desdemona feels that as a good wife, she should be a part of these responsibilities. Othello assures the council that he will remain focused on his responsibilities because if he does not he will retire as general and his helmet will be used as a frying pan. "Let housewives make a skillet of my helm, and all indign and base adversities make head against my estimation" (I.iii. 307-309).

16. Reread Iago’s lines, 361 - 375. How is his "parable to the garden" symbolic of his character?

Iago’s parable to the garden is symbolic to his character in that the way a gardener would tend to a garden, water it, and watch it grow, so too will Iago speak into Othello’s ear and continue to lie and beguile him as his doubt about his own wife will continue to grow as well.

17. What is the "real reason" Iago hates Othello? (lines 429 - 434)

The "real reason" Iago hates Othello is that he heard a rumor that the moor had sex with his wife Emilia. Although he dismisses this as a rumor, he uses this reason to hate Othello. "And it is thought abroad that ‘twixt my sheets he’s done my office. I know not if it be true..." (I.iii 378 - 380).

18. Why is Cassio a particularly handy scapegoat for Iago’s plot?

Cassio is a particularly handy scapegoat for Iago’s plot because he is younger than Othello and handsome. He is a smooth talker and people expect him to be a seducer of women. "He hath a person and a smooth dispose to be suspected, framed to make women false" (I.iii 388 - 389).
TOPIC: Act II scene i & ii Homework Questions

19. What is the situation at sea as Act II begins? What has happened to the Turkish fleet?
The situation at sea as Act II begins is that the weather is rough and stormy. As a result the Turkish fleet has been destroyed and their ships will not be a battle. Many of the people at Cyprus are concerned for Othello and the other members traveling from Venice.

20. Which ship from Venice arrives first? Which ship arrives second? Why is it surprising that it arrives before Othello's?
The first ship that arrives is Michael Cassio. The second ship to arrive is Iago who is bringing Desdemona, Emilia and Roderigo. Finally, Othello's ship is the last to arrive due to the stormy seas. It is surprising that Othello arrived last because he was the first to leave and an experienced sailor/navigator who should have been the first to arrive.

21. Who is Emilia? What does the discussion between Desdemona and Emilia tell us about their relationship?
Emilia is Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant. The discussion between Desdemona and Emilia teaches us that Emilia is willing to take abuse from her husband Iago and not stand up for herself. Desdemona stands up for Emilia and speaks back to Iago (not common for women during that time). This shows us that Desdemona is a strong woman who stands up for herself.

22. Why does Iago want Roderigo to anger Cassio? What is the purpose of Iago's plan?
Iago wants Roderigo to anger Michael Cassio so that he will get in trouble with Othello and the people of Cyprus and lose his position of lieutenant. Iago tells Roderigo to anger Cassio because he is in love with Desdemona. Roderigo doesn't know any better and is willing to blindly follow Iago's plan. Ultimately, Iago hopes that this plan will lead to him becoming the lieutenant.

23. What keeps Roderigo from seeing the truth instead of Iago's lies?
Roderigo is unable to see the truth because he is gullible and blinded by his love for Desdemona. Iago promises Roderigo that the two will be together eventually if he follows his plan.
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Directions: Below are 69 vocabulary words with definitions. Your task is to create a sentence using context clues for each vocabulary word. You will be tested on numbers 1-35 and then on all 69 words.

1. **Advocacy**: AD vak chu see  Definition: Support of an idea or cause. \( (n) \)
   Sentence: The lawyer was a strong advocate for his client because he knew that he was innocent.

2. **Affinity**: uh FIN uh tee Definition: A likeness, a natural relationship, a kinship. \( (n) \)
   Sentence: He had an affinity for the woman he met and asked her out on a date immediately.

3. **Agile**: AJ ahl  Definition: The ability to move quickly with suppleness and grace. \( (a d j) \)
   Sentence: The track and field competitor made an agile leap, allowing him to win the gold medal.

4. **Alacrity**: uh LAK rah tee Definition: Prompt or cheerful response. \( (n) \)
   Sentence: The students were greeted with alacrity by the teacher who had a big smile on her face.

5. **Amiable**: A mee uh bul  Definition: Friendly, sociable, and congenial. \( (a d j) \)
   Sentence: The woman gave an amiable greeting by smiling and waving.

6. **Baseness**: BASE nes Definition: The quality of lacking higher values. \( (n) \)
   Sentence: The gang leader watched his members attack the old woman, and felt no guilt because of his baseness.

7. **Beguile**: buh GUYL Definition: To deceive, to mislead, and to persuade with charm. \( (v) \)
   Sentence: The car salesman tried to beguile the customer with an offer of free gas for a year.
8. Bestial: BES shul  
   Definition: Brutal without reason, having the attributes of a savage. 
   Sentence: The boy who was raised by wolves displayed bestial behavior by growling during an argument.

9. Bestow: be STOW  
   Definition: To grant or to give. 
   Sentence: The prime minister will bestow medals to the brave soldiers who rescued their comrades.

10. Boisterous: BOY stir ous  
    Definition: Rowdy, rough and stormy. 
    Sentence: The boisterous storm ripped through our town wrecking everything in sight.

11. Bombastic: bom BASS tik  
    Definition: Using inflated language, pompous. 
    Sentence: Some say Donald Trump is too bombastic and makes outrageous claims during his speeches.

12. Candid: KAN did  
    Definition: Blunt, sincere honesty. 
    Sentence: She often spoke in a candid manner, revealing too much information about her children who often felt embarrassed.

13. Carnal: KAR nul  
    Definition: Marked by sexuality that is often frank and unrelieved by higher emotions. 
    Sentence: Minors were not allowed in the art gallery as many of the pieces contained carnal nudity.

14. Castigate: KAS nh gate  
    Definition: To punish or to subdue by punishment; to criticize with drastic severity. 
    Sentence: When the police chief discovers his officers let the criminal escape, he is sure to castigate them.

15. Circumspect: SIR kum spekt  
    Definition: Careful to consider consequences, cautious, prudent. 
    Sentence: In this growing age of technology, one must circumspect the information they provide on the internet.
The Pope consecrated the cross by blessing it.

Martha is a cynical woman who does not trust many people.

After being hit by the hurricane, the entire neighborhood was defunct.

The Sahara Desert is a desolate place, it contains no traces of life.

The student walked to class in a dilatory manner because he was apprehensive about taking the test.

We used a background check to discern which candidate was more qualified for the job.

There was discord among the committee members on how the extra money should be spent.

My daughter spends money recklessly, and she receives an allowance at my discretion.
24. Edifying: Ed uh fic ing Definition: Instructing and improving spiritually or morally. (adj)

The teacher hoped her speech about citizenship would edify her students and encourage them to contribute to their community.

25. Enmesh: en ME sh Definition: To entangle. (v)

The fly became enmeshed within the spiders web and could not escape.

26. Entreaty: en TREE tee Definition: A plea, an earnest request. (n)

I entreat you to donate some time tomorrow for our neighborhood clean-up program.

27. Epithet: EP uh that Definition: A term or phrase describing or characterizing. (n)

The epithet "Curley" is used to describe the man with curley hair.

28. Facile: FAS il Definition: Easily achieved with little difficulty. (adj)

The adults didn't understand Pokemon-Go but the teenagers thought it was facile and easily played.

29. Forbearance: fore BARE us Definition: Patience, lenience. (n)

The police officer showed forbearance when he let the young their off with a warning.

30. Fulsome: FUL sum Definition: Excess to the point of disgust, extreme lavishness. (adj)

The table heaped with fulsome amounts of greasy food.

31. Garner: GAR nur Definition: To gather together, to store up. (v)

If the comedian wants to garner more laughs during her routine, she needs to write funnier jokes.

32. Gravity: GRAV eh tee Definition: Seriousness, importance. (n)

The soldiers realized the gravity of the battle when they realized they were outnumbered.
33. **Guileless**: GIL E los  Definition: Without deceit, innocent.  (adj)

The guileless old woman trusted everyone and gave her life savings to the scam artist.

34. **Hideous**: HID ee us Definition: Very ugly, offensive, shocking.  (adj)

The scary creature made a hideous croaking sound, terrifying us all.

35. **Homage**: HOM ij Definition: Respect shown by external action.  (n)

To show homage, the poor people brought gifts to the temple.

36. **Imperious**: IN PEER os Definition: Extremely overbearing.  (adj)

37. **Insolence**: IN sul Juns Definition: Insulting or contemptuous behavior.  (n)

38. **Laconic**: luh KON ik Definition: Using a minimum of words; concise to the point of seeming rude.  (adj)

39. **Lecher**: LECH ur Definition: One who indulges excessively in sexual activity.  (n)

40. **Lethargic**: luh THAR jik Definition: Sluggish, languid.  (adj)

41. **Malice**: MAL is Definition: Desire to harm others.  (n)
Othello Character Map
### TOPIC: Characters in Othello

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Othello</td>
<td>The play’s protagonist and hero. Othello is a Muslim Moor and General of the armies of Venice. He is powerful and respected by all of those around him. However, he is a target because of his race.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desdemona</td>
<td>The daughter of Barbantio who is secretly married to Othello before the play begins. She is a determined woman who defends her marriage. (white/ interracial relationship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iago</td>
<td>The antagonist and villain of the play. Iago desires Othello’s demise because he has been passed over for the position of Lieutenant. He is manipulative and destructive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Cassio</td>
<td>Othello’s Lieutenant. A young and inexperienced soldier who is resented by Iago. He is truly devoted to Othello and is promoted to the position of Othello’s Lieutenant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilia</td>
<td>Iago’s wife and Desdemona’s attendant. She is a cynical woman who does not trust her husband.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roderigo</td>
<td>A jealous suitor of Desdemona. Young, rich, and foolish. Roderigo is convinced that if he gives Iago all of his money, Iago will help him win Desdemona’s hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bianca</td>
<td>An (alleged) prostitute in Cyprus. Her favorite customer is Cassio, who teases her with promises of marriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brabanzio</td>
<td>Desdemona’s father and an important Venetian senator. He is friends with Othello but feel betrayed when the general marries his daughter in secret.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Venice</td>
<td>The official authority in Venice. The Duke has great respect for Othello as a public and military servant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montano</td>
<td>The governor of Cyprus before Othello.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodovico</td>
<td>A relative of Brabanzio, he acts as a messenger from venice to Cyprus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graziano</td>
<td>A relative of Brabanzio, he accompanies Lodovice to Cyprus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clown</td>
<td>Othello’s servant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>